

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA RACTION

SUMMARY. THOUGH MOST LEBANESE EDITORS STILL CONCENTRATING ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, FOUR DAILIES COMMENT ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF U.S. POLICY VIS-A-VIS MIDEAST. INDEPENDENT "AL BAYRAQ" DISCERNS COORDINATED U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND USSR PRESSURE ON ARABS TO MAKE BOTH PARTIES MORE FLEXIBLE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE. PRO-CAIRO "AL ANWAR" SAYS PRESIDENT FORD'S PERSONAL QUALITIES WILL SERVE AMERICANS WELL THROUGH PRESENT CATASTROPE IN INDOCHINA BUT WARNS THAT MIDEAST SITUATION REMAINS MOST DANGEROUS THREAT TO WORLD PEACE." INDEPENDENT "AN NAHAR" URGES ARABS TO TAKE INTEREST IN 1976 U.S. ELECTIONS BECAUSE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE MAY HAVE POWER TO RESOLVE MIDEAST SITUATION. PRO-IRAQI BEIRUT LINKS CURRENT VISITS BY KING HUSSEIN TO PREPARATIONS AMONG ALL PARTIES FOR JORDAN TO ATTEND FIRST STAGE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. SIDDIQ BUTROS OF INDEPENDENT "AL BAYRAQ" COMMENTS ON REPORTS THAT US WILL REDUCE ITS ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL  
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SAYING: "IF IT IS TRUE THAT WHITE HOUSE IS EXERCISING

POLITICAL PRESSURE ON ISRAEL THROUGH REDUCING ARMS SHIPMENTS AND OTHER MILITARY AID, THERE ARE SIGNS THAT USSR IN TURN IS EXERCISING SIMILAR PRESSURE BY NOT MEETING ALL DEMANDS FOR SOVIET ARMS BY SOME ARAB STATES. PRESUMABLY ALL THIS IS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW IN PREPARATION FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE SO THAT CONCERNED PARTIES WOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE...HAS US-SOVIET UNDERSTANDING REACHED EXTENT OF IMPOSING SOVIET-AMERICAN PEACE RATHER THAN THE UNSUCCESSFUL AMERICAN PEACE WHOSE BANNER WAS CARRIED BY DR. KISSINGER?"

3. COMMENTING ON INDO-CHINA SITUATION ELIAS BADAWI OF PRO-CAIRO "AL ANWAR" SAYS: "AMERICANS ARE PROBABLY FORTUNATE IN THESE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES IN HAVING AT HEAD OF THEIR GOVERNMENT MAN OF PRESIDENT FORD'S TYPE. HE POSSESSES ALL QUALITIES TO RECEIVE CALMLY CATASTROPHE LIKE ONE BEFALLING AMERICAN POLICY IN INDOCHINA. HE IS 'SPORTSMAN', 'CLEAN' AND NOT A 'POLITICIAN'. WITH GENUINE SPORTSMANSHIP HE ADMITTED DEFEAT OF HIS 'TEAM' IN BLOODY INDOCHINA MATCH. HE IS PROBABLY PREPARED TO SHAKE HANDS WITH WINNING PARTY... BUT AMERICANS SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT DANGER WHICH CAUSED FAILURE OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY IS STILL THERE AND HAS BECOME EVEN MORE SERIOUS. IT IS REPRESENTED BY ISRAEL, WHICH FAILURE OF AMERICAN POLICY HAS MADE THE MOST DANGEROUS THREAT TO WORLD PEACE."

4. DISCUSSING EFFECT OF U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ON MIDEAST SITUATION, FUAD MATAR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN NAHAR" WROTE: "ARABS MUST PARTICIPATE NOW IN BATTLE FOR FUTURE US PRESIDENT, BECAUSE IT APPEARS PRESIDENT OF 1976 WILL HAVE POWER TO TAKE (MIDEAST) DECISION. AS FOR PRESIDENT FORD, IT APPEARS HE WILL BE UNABLE, AS ELECTION DATE APPROACHES, TO DO ANYTHING BASIC UNLESS HE TAKES MOVE VIS-VIS MIDEAST CRISIS WHICH SURPRISES WORLD AND CIRCUMVENTS EFFECTS OF EBBING US INFLUENCE IN SE ASIA...BATTLE FOR FUTURE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY SHOULD BE BATTLE OF ARABS IN SENSE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT STAND IDLY BY AS THEY DID IN PAST...FUTURE BATTLE SHOULD NOT BE BETWEEN TWO CANDIDATES, EACH OF WHOM CONSIDERS ISRAEL TO BE HIS BASIC CAUSE. RATHER, IT SHOULD BE BETWEEN ONE CANDIDATE WHO FAVORS ISRAEL, IN HOPE UNCLASSIFIED

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HE WILL WIN JEWISH VOTES, AND ANOTHER WHO DOES NOT FAVOR IT IN HOPE HE WILL ENABLE AMERICA TO WIN ARAB MONEY AND OIL. PROBABLY A CANDIDATE RAISING SLOGAN OF WINNING ARAB MONEY AND OIL WILL FIND IN COMING BATTLE NEW TIDE OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WHICH MIGHT TAKE HIM, OR HIS SUCCESSOR, TO PRESIDENCY.

5. ADNAN BADR OF PRO-IRAQI BEIRUT LINKS KING HUSSEIN'S

VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA, FRANCE AND US WITH PREPARATINS FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE WROTE: "SINCE GENEVA WILL BE HELD BEFORE AGREEMENT IS REACHED OVER FORMULA FOR PALESTINIAN PRESENCE,JORDAN REGIME CAN BE SURE THAT WASHINGTON AND TEL AVIV WILL WELCOME ITS DELEGATION TO GENEVA. FURTHER, USSR LOOKS AT FIRST STAGE ON BASIS OF JORDAN'S PARTICIPATION IN IT. THIS IS WHAT AMBASSADOR VENOGRADOW HAS ASSERTED BOTH TO KING HUSSEIN AND TO YASSER ARAFAT. FURTHERMORE, ARAB REGIMES PARTICIPATING IN SETTLEMENT ARE CLOSER TO JORDAN THAN TO PLO."  
GODLEY

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